

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A video data file consolidating apparatus for converting and consolidating video data files and management information data files associated therewith before consolidation which are recorded in a data format of a directory file structure before consolidation in a first recording medium, into a data format of a different directory file structure for a second recording medium, said apparatus comprising:

conversion processing means for converting said management information files before consolidation and video data files before consolidation to said management information file after consolidation and video data file after consolidation,

wherein said conversion processing means converts directory file structure information in units of the recording media before consolidation to reproduction control information in a data format of said management information file for after consolidation so as to be recorded at the time of consolidation.

2. A video data file consolidating apparatus for converting and consolidating video data files and management information data files associated therewith before consolidation which are recorded in a data format of a directory file structure before consolidation, into a data format of a different directory file structure, said apparatus comprising:

a recording medium for before consolidation for recording said video data files before consolidation and management information data files associated therewith;

a recording medium for after consolidation for recording said video data file after consolidation and management information data file associated therewith;

first reading/writing means for reading and writing data on said recording medium for before consolidation;

second reading/writing means for reading and writing data on said recording medium for after consolidation; and

conversion control means for controlling conversion of the data recorded in said recording medium for before consolidation to a data format to be used in said recording medium for after consolidation, or controlling conversion inverse thereto,

wherein said conversion control means performs conversion processing of said management information files before consolidation to said management information file after consolidation, and performs conversion processing of said video data files before consolidation to said video data file after consolidation, and when consolidating into said management information file and video data file after consolidation to be recorded in the data format used in said recording medium for after consolidation, said conversion control means converts information relating to a directory and file structure of a data group before the data conversion to the reproduction control information which is additionally recorded in said management information file after consolidation.

3. A video data file consolidating method for consolidating plural data groups consisting of at least one video data file and at least one

management information file including information associated therewith in units of the data groups to create new video data file and management information file different from those of the data groups, wherein said plural data groups before consolidation are data groups recorded in a predetermined same data format and directory file structure, and the directory file structure information of the data groups before consolidation is converted to reproduction control information in the data format of the management information file after consolidation and is recorded in the management information file after consolidation.

4. The video data file consolidating method according to claim 3, wherein both or one of file name information and directory name information of the data file in the directory file structure before consolidation is converted to text information in the data format of the management information file after consolidation to be recorded.

5. The video data file consolidating method according to claim 3, wherein the reproduction control information has identification information for identifying the reproduction control information and changes the identification information when the directory file structure information of the data groups before consolidation is converted to the reproduction control information in the data format of the management information file after consolidation.

6. The video data file consolidating method according to claim 5, wherein

the identification information is text information provided to the reproduction control information.

7. The video data file consolidating method according to claim 5, wherein the identification information is flag information provided to the reproduction control information.

8. A consolidated video data file reproducing apparatus for reproducing a new video data file different from data groups created by consolidating plural data groups consisting of at least one video data file and at least one management information file including information associated therewith in units of the data groups, wherein said plural data groups before consolidation are data groups recorded in a predetermined same data format and directory file structure, and the directory file structure information of the data groups before consolidation is converted to reproduction control information in a data format of the management information file after consolidation to be recorded in the management information file after consolidation, and wherein said video data file after consolidation is reproduced by utilizing the reproduction control information.

9. The consolidated video data file reproducing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein both or one of file name information and directory name information of the data file in the directory file structure before consolidation are converted into text information in the data format of the

management information file after consolidation and is recorded, and the recorded information is reproduced.

10. A consolidated video data file reproducing method for reproducing a new video data file different from data groups created by consolidating plural data groups consisting of at least one video data file and at least one management information file including information associated therewith in units of the data groups, wherein said plural data groups before consolidation are data groups recorded in a predetermined same data format and directory file structure, and the directory file structure information of the data groups before consolidation is converted to reproduction control information in a data format of the management information file after consolidation to be recorded in said management information file after consolidation, and wherein said video data file after consolidation is reproduced by utilizing the reproduction control information.

11. The consolidated video data file reproducing method according to claim 10, wherein both or one of file name information and directory name information of the data file in the directory file structure before consolidation are converted to text information in the data format of the management information file after consolidation and is recorded, and the recorded information is reproduced.